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WAYSIDE NOTES.

"The Oasis" Man With a Congenial Party Travels Beyond The Santo Domingo River.

Thursday of last week there departed from Magdalena two vehicles carrying a pleasant party destined for the Rey de Oro camp, beyond the Santo Domingo river. They were Mr. George P. Moore, president of the Tribune Gold Mining Milling Company; Mr. Percy Carter, general manager for the same company; Mr. R. C. Moore, who is to be assayer at the camp; Mr. H. M. Clagett, superintendent for the Arizona & Sonora Manufacturing Co., of Nogales, who have contracted with the Tribune Company to erect a 30-stamp mill at the Rey de Oro camp, with Messrs. C. H. Wilkie and Louis Bergonia, who are to assist in the work of erection, going there to lay out the work preliminary to construction; THE OASIS editor, who went along as a guest of Messrs. Moore and Carter, to look over again a very interesting region he had not visited in more than four years, and to give readers of the paper an account of the many changes that have taken place within that time, with some description of other changes projected to occur within the near future; and Mr. William Wolfe of Magdalena, whose handsome team of bays, drawing a light mountain wagon was one of the teams conveying the outfit, in which with Mr. Wolfe rode Messrs. Moore, Carter, and the scribe. The other wagon was drawn by a fine team of mules bought recently by the Tribune Company, Mr. Clagett skilfully handling the ribbons, his passengers being Messrs. Wilkie, Bergonia and a Mexican *moseo*, while Mr. R. C. Moore rode an active and easy riding saddle horse he had just purchased at Magdalena.

The drive was without incident until Escondido was reached, at a distance of eighteen miles, and there the party stopped to feed the teams and get lunch, the woman at the ranche house serving very good coffee.

While the party were at Escondido there set in a gentle rain which continued all the rest of the day and away into the night. It was of no inconvenience to the party however, as both vehicles were covered, and dropped curtains on one side shed off the beating rain.

Along the road there were passed several large wagons hauling freight to Cerro Prieto and Rey de Oro.

About 5 o'clock in the evening the procession reached the Pintor ranche, where the first day's journey terminated. There Mr. M. Maldonado, who is a frequent visitor and well known at Nogales, keeps a store and hotel, giving at prices very reasonable good accommodations to travellers and their teams.

During the evening Mr. Maldonado exhibited a bit of workmanship by a Mexican carpenter named Jesus Preciado, in his employ, that was considered good by all the party. Mr. Maldonado had a Speyr breech loading rifle the stock to

which had been shattered by some mishap. With a pocket knife the man had whittled from a piece of white walnut as handsome and well finished a stock as was ever put upon any gun.

Shortly after supper the party repaired to the bunk house, and within a very short time all the nine individuals were in their respective cots. The scribe was the first asleep, remaining utterly oblivious to all surroundings until three o'clock in the morning, when he was awakened by a discussion between Messrs. Moore, Clagett and Carter with regard to snoring, each averring that the other two had kept him awake by their raucous and stertorian performances. Not satisfied with abusing each other they jointly and severally accused the editor of having talked in his sleep. But none of them could remember the name of the lady to whom they alleged his nocturnal remarks were addressed, so their story was set down as "a campaign lie told to injure a man who is truly good and great."

With an early breakfast and an early start the party reached Cerro Prieto, (nine miles) about 8 o'clock Friday morning, where a stay of about half an hour was made. It is a busy place, the great mill with a capacity of about 600 tons daily, making music that required but little imagination to suggest the chink and jingle of the gold that is its product. The power is all electric, transmitted by wire from the power house at the Magdalena, twenty-six miles in a direct line.

At the great camp there are several gentlemen well known to readers of THE OASIS; among them Mr. Frank Cox, superintendent; Mr. Oscar Rountree, manager of the company store; Mr. A. W. Morris, cyanide expert; and Mr. Peter R. Brady, mine foreman.

In Mr. Brady the editor found an old time friend and acquaintance. In March 1893, (fifteen years ago) the scribe visited the Vekol mine, near Casa Grande, where Mr. Brady was then foreman, and was shown through that great mine by the gentleman. Four years ago last November the editor rode into the Higuera camp, near Cucurpe, one evening, finding Mr. Brady there as superintendent, and renewing the acquaintance. The next day Mr. Brady showed the scribe over that property. And at this time he expressed a desire to show him the great Cerro Prieto mine; but perforce the invitation was declined—time was short, the others were waiting and the way was long.

From Cerro Prieto to Rey de Oro is a distance of twenty miles, over a rough and mountainous region, but a good road, and at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon the point of destination was reached without accident. There the party were greeted cordially by Mr. James R. Bent of Nogales, superintendent for the Tribune Company, and Mr. Harry Williams of Nogales also, who is in charge of the company's store.

Saturday morning, bright and early Mr. Clagett, set a gang of men at work grading the mill site, and before noon they had changed considerably the face of nature. Before the end of another week he

anticipated that the grading would be completed ready to lay the foundations. Another force was set to getting out rock for the foundations, and yet a third gang was building a lime kiln and preparing to burn lime for use in the masonry.

Mrs. Wilkie, who had come out with a freight wagon a day or two before, joined her husband at the camp, and Saturday the lady was engaged in superintending erection of a tent which is to be her home during the construction of the mill.

Monday forenoon Messrs. Moore, Carter, Bent and the editor put in the time looking over the property, the latter taking notes for a report thereon which will appear in THE OASIS in the near future; and a part of the afternoon and evening the writer devoted his time to preparation of his report.

In the middle of the afternoon the scribe mounted a fine saddle horse, kindly loaned by Mr. Bent, and rode across the mountains a distance of a couple of miles, to the Tucabe mine. There he found Messrs. Cornelius Ferris, known well all over Sonora, J. Berkman, a mining engineer, and Obearn, an assayer. Mr. Fred Johnson, the superintendent, had gone to Cerro Prieto to meet Mr. L. N. Whealton, the general manager of the company, who was expected to come from Magdalena.

Development work is being conducted in the Tucabe at two points, but the mill has not been in operation for about a year. It is stated that there are large bodies of high grade gold ore all blocked out ready for stoping.

Remaining at Tucabe a half hour the writer returned to the Rey de Oro camp, following up the Tucabe creek, a more circuitous route, instead of crossing over the ridge, and passing the old Klondyke camp where he visited a couple of days four years ago. The ride up the cañon was very interesting, and in places the scenery is wild and picturesque.

My work at Rey de Oro finished I was ready to leave Sunday morning, which I did, coming with Mr. Wolfe. I had an engagement to examine the properties of the Estrella Mining Company, some fifteen miles distant, across the mountains. At Nogales I had arranged to do so with Mr. J. W. Bawden of Cerro Prieto, who was to come out a day or two later to join and show me the property. I had expected to secure saddle animals for the trip at Rey de Oro, but it was found that to do that would require another day, as I should have to return to the Rey camp to return the horses. Mr. Wolfe assured me we could return to Agua Prieta, sixteen miles on the road to Cerro Prieto, thence eighteen miles in another direction to Estrella, return to Agua Prieta, thence to Cerro Prieto and to Pintor, but thirty miles from Magdalena, by nightfall. So that was the programme adopted.

From Rey de Oro, we got a reasonably early start—at 7:23: and in exactly two hours we reached Agua Prieta. There we were joined by a young man who had worked at Estrella, whom we had

engaged as a guide. We had started and had gone about half a mile on our way when we returned to the ranche to borrow a pick; and just then there drove up from Cerro Prieto Mr. Johnson, returning to Tucabe, and with him Mr. Bawden. But for the lucky return for the pick I would have missed Bawden, who would have gone to Tucabe, thence to the Rey camp, looking for me.

Driving up the Agua Prieta valley, and passing the Chico Sonora and Estrella ranches, south from the latter we turned west into the Paso de Huerigo, through the Sierita de Huerigo, in a side cañon finding the property, which we reached about one o'clock. The pass is traversed by the road from Las Chispas to the Sonora railway at Querobabi, a distance of about sixty miles, and crosses the San Miguel river at a point between Cucuripe and Tuape. Our point of destination is about thirty-five miles from Querobabi. As we entered the pass we encountered a pack train of more than 200 burros, all laden with rich ores and concentrates, en route to Querobabi.

Examination of the Estrella company's property was satisfactory. We found four good ledges in slate, with considerable development and a good showing of high grade ores, carrying gold, silver, copper and lead.

While Mr. Bawden and the writer were looking over the properties, sampling the ledges, dumps, etc., Mr. Wolfe was feeding and resting the team; and at 2:20 we started on the return trip, with the animals in fine condition. At the end of two hours we had returned to Agua Prieta, and were at Calera in another hour.

Near Calera is the Calera mine, which Mr. Bawden with Mr. Jones of Cerro Prieto, and Luis Canizares of Calera, have leased and are preparing to work. They have leased a mill at Huerigo, some six miles away, and will pack the ores there for treatment. The Calera has yielded very handsomely in the past and has good ores in sight.

At Calera is the pumping plant which supplies the Cerro Prieto camp with water from the Santo Domingo river, forcing it through an 8-inch pipe up an elevation of about 300 feet. The pump is a triple action Cameron pump, and its power is electricity conducted by wire from the power house at Magdalena, about thirty miles distant.

Progress was slow up the road to Cerro Prieto, reaching there at 6 o'clock, and stopping only a length of time sufficient to permit Mr. Bawden to alight. It was Sunday evening, and the stores and offices were closed, while all were out for recreation. Going into the camp we passed a large group of Japanese who were posing for a photograph. Mr. William Strickland of Nogales, was the artist.

Leaving Cerro Prieto the remaining nine miles were covered in a hurry, and at 7:10 we were at Pintor, having travelled sixty-three miles and made a mine examination

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